

**REMARKS**

This is a response to the Final Office Action dated August 12, 2003. Claims 1-126 are pending in the application. In the Final Office Action, claims 1-20, 24-70, 74-114 and 116-126 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No.

- 5 5,983,200 ("Slotznick"). In addition, claims 21-23, 71-73 and 115 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slotznick in view of Japanese publication no. 5-250392 ("Hirohisa").

10 The rejections from the Final Office Action of August 12, 2003 are discussed below in connection with the various claims. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

**I. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)**

Independent Claims 1, 42, 51, 92, 102, and 119-126 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Slotznick. With this response, claims 1, 42, 51, 92, 102, and 119-126 have been amended. These amendments add no new matter and are supported by the specification. Applicant submits that claims 1, 42, 51, 92, 102, and 119-126, as amended, are not anticipated by Slotznick.

**A. Independent Claims**

Independent claim 1, as amended, relates to a "method for facilitating electronic commerce through a network, the network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer...." The method comprises: "receiving a first request for a first suggested order, said first suggested order comprising a first two or more suggested products or services of a plurality of products or services, a first suggested recurrence for each of said first two or more suggested products or services and first suggested quantities for each of said first two or more suggested products or services, wherein said first suggested recurrence associated with a first of said first two or more suggested products or services may be different than said first suggested recurrence associated with a second of said first two or more suggested products or services" and "generating a first profile, said first profile comprising said first suggested order, wherein said first suggested order automatically recurs one or more times according to said first suggested recurrence, each of said first two or more suggested products or services being fulfilled according to said associated of said first suggested recurrence."

Independent claim 42, as amended, relates to a "method for facilitating electronic commerce through a network, said network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer...." The method comprises: "receiving a first electronic standing order for two or more products or services and an order recurrence for each of said two or more products or services;" "receiving a reminder specification for a reminder message;" "supplying, automatically, said two or more products or services according to said order recurrence, wherein said order recurrence associated with a first of said first two or more products or services may be

different than said order recurrence associated with a second of said first two or more products or services” and “providing said reminder message one or more times according to a reminder recurrence.”

Independent claim 51, as amended, relates to an “order management system for  
5 facilitating electronic commerce over a network, said network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer over said network....” The order management system comprises: “an order receiver operative to receive a first request for a first suggested order, said first suggested order comprising a first two or more suggested products or services of a plurality of products  
10 or services, a first suggested recurrence for each of said first two or more suggested products or services and first suggested quantities for each of said first two or more suggested products or services, wherein said first suggested recurrence associated with a first of said first two or more suggested products or services may be different than said first suggested recurrence associated with a second of said first two or more suggested products or services;”  
15 “a profile generator coupled with said order receiver and operative to generate a first profile, said first profile comprising said first suggested order;” and “an order generator responsive to said first profile and operative to cause said first suggested order to automatically recur one or more times according to said first suggested recurrence, each of said first two or more suggested products or services being fulfilled according to said associated of said first  
20 suggested recurrence.”

Independent claim 92, as amended, relates to an “order management system coupled with a network, said network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer over a network....” The order management system comprises: “an order receiver operative to  
25 receive an electronic standing order for two or more of a plurality of products or services; said order receiver further operative to receive a reminder specification for a reminder message;” “a profile generator coupled with said order receiver and operative to generate a first profile, said first profile comprising said electronic standing order and specifying an order recurrence for said electronic standing order, said first profile further comprising said  
30 reminder specification, and specifying a reminder recurrence, wherein said reminder

recurrence associated with a first of said two or more of a plurality of products or services may be different than said reminder recurrence associated with a second of said two or more of a plurality of products or services;" and "an order generator responsive to said first profile and operative to cause said electronic standing order to automatically recur one or more  
5 times according to said order recurrence, each of said two or more of a plurality of products or services being fulfilled according to said associated of said order recurrence, and cause said reminder message to be automatically transmitted one or more times according to said reminder recurrence."

Independent claim 102, as amended, relates to a "method for facilitating electronic  
10 commerce through a network, said network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer...." The method comprises: "providing, electronically, at least one suggested order comprising at least two products or services and a suggested recurrence, wherein said suggested recurrence associated with a first of said at least two products or services may be different than said  
15 suggested recurrence associated with a second of said at least two products or services;" "generating a standing order for the at least two products or services at the suggested recurrence in response to an electronic reply to [the providing], each of said at least two suggested products or services being fulfilled according to said associated of said suggested recurrence."

Independent claim 119, as amended, relates to a "method for facilitating electronic  
20 commerce through a network, said network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer...." The method comprises: "receiving a first request for a first suggested order, said first suggested order comprising a first one or more suggested products or services of a plurality of products  
25 or services, a first suggested recurrence for each of said first one or more suggested products or services and first suggested quantities for each of said first one or more suggested products or services, wherein said first suggested recurrence associated with a first of said first one or more suggested products or services may be different than said first suggested recurrence associated with a second of said first one or more suggested products or services;"  
30 and "generating a first profile, said first profile comprising said first suggested order,

wherein said first suggested order automatically recurs one or more times according to said first suggested recurrence, each of said first one or more suggested products or services being fulfilled according to said associated of said first suggested recurrence;" and "wherein said plurality of products or services are associated with a multi-level marketing system."

5 Independent claim 120, as amended, relates to a "method for facilitating electronic commerce through a network, said network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer...." The method comprises: "receiving a first request for a first suggested order, said first suggested order comprising a first one or more suggested products or services of a plurality of products  
10 or services, a first suggested recurrence for each of said first one or more suggested products or services and first suggested quantities for each of said first one or more suggested products or services, wherein said first suggested recurrence associated with a first of said first one or more suggested products or services may be different than said first suggested recurrence associated with a second of said first one or more suggested products or services;"  
15 and "generating a first profile, said first profile comprising said first suggested order, wherein said first suggested order automatically recurs one or more times according to said first suggested recurrence, each of said first one or more suggested products or services being fulfilled according to said associated of said first suggested recurrence;" and "wherein said plurality of products or services is associated with a respective plurality of electronic  
20 commerce system products or services web files."

Independent claim 121, as amended, relates to a "method for facilitating electronic commerce through a network, said network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer...." The method comprises: "receiving a first request for a first suggested order, said first suggested  
25 order comprising a first one or more suggested products or services of a plurality of products or services, a first suggested recurrence for each of said first one or more suggested products or services and first suggested quantities for each of said first one or more suggested products or services, wherein said first suggested recurrence associated with a first of said first one or more suggested products or services may be different than said first suggested  
30 recurrence associated with a second of said first one or more suggested products or services;"

“generating a first profile, said first profile comprising said first suggested order, wherein said first suggested order automatically recurs one or more times according to said first suggested recurrence, each of said first one or more suggested products or services being fulfilled according to said associated of said first suggested recurrence;” and “balancing said first suggested quantities and said first suggested recurrence to substantially equalize a distribution of subsequent recurrences of said first suggested order.”

Independent claim 122, as amended, relates to a “method for facilitating electronic commerce through a network, said network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer....” The method comprises: “receiving a first request for a first suggested order, said first suggested order comprising a first one or more suggested products or services of a plurality of products or services, a first suggested recurrence for each of said first one or more suggested products or services and first suggested quantities for each of said first one or more suggested products or services, wherein said first suggested recurrence associated with a first of said first one or more suggested products or services may be different than said first suggested recurrence associated with a second of said first one or more suggested products or services;” “generating a first profile, said first profile comprising said first suggested order, wherein said first suggested order automatically recurs one or more times according to said first suggested recurrence, each of said first one or more suggested products or services being fulfilled according to said associated of said first suggested recurrence;” and “providing one or more pre-defined groupings of one or more products or services selected from a plurality of products or services offered by one or more vendors;” and “wherein said first request further comprises a selection indication of one or more of said one or more pre-defined groupings.”

Independent claim 123, as amended, relates to an “order management system for facilitating electronic commerce over a network, said network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer over said network....” The order management system comprises: “an order receiver operative to receive a first request for a first suggested order, said first suggested order comprising a first one or more suggested products or services of a plurality of products

or services, a first suggested recurrence for each of said first one or more suggested products or services and first suggested quantities for each of said first one or more suggested products or services, wherein said first suggested recurrence associated with a first of said first one or more suggested products or services may be different than said first suggested recurrence associated with a second of said first one or more suggested products or services;"

5 "a profile generator coupled with said order receiver and operative to generate a first profile, said first profile comprising said first suggested order;" and "an order generator responsive to said first profile and operative to cause said first suggested order to automatically recur one or more times according to said first suggested recurrence, each of said first one or more

10 suggested products or services being fulfilled according to said associated of said first suggested recurrence," and "wherein said plurality of products or services are associated with a multi-level marketing system."

Independent claim 124, as amended, relates to an "order management system for facilitating electronic commerce over a network, said network comprising at least one server

15 computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer over said network...." The order management system comprises: "an order receiver operative to receive a first request for a first suggested order, said first suggested order comprising a first one or more suggested products or services of a plurality of products or services, a first suggested recurrence for each of said first one or more suggested products

20 or services and first suggested quantities for each of said first one or more suggested products or services, wherein said first suggested recurrence associated with a first of said first one or more suggested products or services may be different than said first suggested recurrence associated with a second of said first one or more suggested products or services;"

25 "a profile generator coupled with said order receiver and operative to generate a first profile, said first profile comprising said first suggested order;" and "an order generator responsive to said first profile and operative to cause said first suggested order to automatically recur one or more times according to said first suggested recurrence, each of said first one or more suggested products or services being fulfilled according to said associated of said first suggested recurrence;" and "wherein said plurality of products or services is associated with

30 a respective plurality of electronic commerce system products or services web files."

Independent claim 125, as amended, relates to an "order management system for facilitating electronic commerce over a network, said network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer over said network...." The order management system comprises: "an order receiver operative to receive a first request for a first suggested order, said first suggested order comprising a first one or more suggested products or services of a plurality of products or services, a first suggested recurrence for each of said first one or more suggested products or services and first suggested quantities for each of said first one or more suggested products or services, wherein said first suggested recurrence associated with a first of said first one or more suggested products or services may be different than said first suggested recurrence associated with a second of said first one or more suggested products or services;" "a profile generator coupled with said order receiver and operative to generate a first profile, said first profile comprising said first suggested order;" "an order generator responsive to said first profile and operative to cause said first suggested order to automatically recur one or more times according to said first suggested recurrence, each of said first one or more suggested products or services being fulfilled according to said associated of said first suggested recurrence;" and "an order balancing processor coupled with said profile generator and operative to balance said first suggested quantities and said first suggested recurrence to substantially equalize a distribution of subsequent recurrences of said first suggested order."

Independent claim 126, as amended, relates to an "order management system for facilitating electronic commerce over a network, said network comprising at least one server computer capable of communicating with a browser system located at a remote client computer over said network...." The order management system comprises: "an order receiver operative to receive a first request for a first suggested order, said first suggested order comprising a first one or more suggested products or services of a plurality of products or services, a first suggested recurrence for each of said first one or more suggested products or services and first suggested quantities for each of said first one or more suggested products or services, wherein said first suggested recurrence associated with a first of said first one or more suggested products or services may be different than said first suggested recurrence associated with a second of said first one or more suggested products or services;"



“a profile generator coupled with said order receiver and operative to generate a first profile, said first profile comprising said first suggested order;” and “an order generator responsive to said first profile and operative to cause said first suggested order to automatically recur one or more times according to said first suggested recurrence, each of said first one or more suggested products or services being fulfilled according to said associated of said first suggested recurrence;” and “wherein said order receiver is further operative to provide one or more pre-defined groupings of one or more products or services selected from said plurality of products or services;” and “wherein said first request further comprises a selection indication of one or more of said one or more pre-defined groupings.”

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**B. Slotznick**

Slotznick discloses an “intelligent agent which executes tasks by using intelligent agent learning modules which store information necessary to execute the tasks. A computer receives a command to execute a task or receives data which causes a task request to be generated. The computer accesses appropriate information in the learning modules to execute the task, and outputs instructions for output devices to execute the tasks. The tasks may be executed at a future time and on a periodic basis. The learning modules build up a database of information from previously executed tasks, and the database is used to assist in executing future tasks. The tasks include physical commercial transactions. Portions of the intelligent agent may be remotely located and interconnected via remote communication devices.” See Slotznick, Abstract. “Using the present invention, both payment and delivery can be specified for future occurrence. In addition, the present invention incorporates a learning database that accumulates data on an incremental as-needed basis. The present invention learns terms which it didn’t originally know (such as nicknames, shipping addresses, alternate product names, and user’s preferences over products) but only requires the data needed for the current task. The present invention remembers the data as a way to expedite the delegation process of the present task and similar tasks in the future. In short, the apparatus described herein can accomplish action at a distance in both time and space and arrange payment at a distance in time.” See Slotznick, Col. 2, lines 53-66. “The present

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invention not only reminds a user about a task or event, but accomplishes that task without further user intervention." *See* Slotznick, Col. 3, lines 29-31.

**C. Slotznick Fails to Disclose the Claimed Invention**

5 While Slotznick discloses that the intelligent agent may be used to reenter orders designated as periodic orders, Slotznick fails to disclose that the intelligent agent stores a single profile of multiple products to be ordered on a recurring basis wherein each of the products is capable of being reordered according to different recurring basis as claimed in Applicants' claims. *See* Slotznick, Col. 21, lines 35-40. In particular, the intelligent agent of  
10 Slotznick is designed to ask a user if the order is a repeat order. *See* Slotznick, Col. 20, lines 26-29. After shipment and delivery of an order is completed, the system checks to see if the order was designated as a recurring order. *See* Slotznick, Col. 21, lines 35-40. If the order is so designated, the system reenters the order to be reprocessed on a calculated recurrence date. *See* Slotznick, Col. 21, lines 35-40. Applicants' claimed invention however, is capable  
15 of re-ordering various subsets products of a single order on a recurring basis to alleviate the need for the user to constantly access the order system and enter multiple orders. As entering an order for multiple products is time consuming, Applicants' claimed invention provides the user with convenience – a user may enter every desired product into a single order and receive various subsets of that order at recurrence times appropriate for the given subset.  
20 This is important as different products may have different rates of usage or consumption and therefore the frequencies with which they must be replenished are different. As compared with the intelligent agent of Slotznick, the user would have to enter multiple orders into the intelligent agent software, with each order specifying a different product delivery date and recurrence, for each set of products that the user wishes to order.

25 The Examiner refers to Figures 7 and 8, Col. 9, lines 31-49, Col. 20, lines 26-29 and Col. 21, lines 35-40 of Slotznick to show that Slotznick discloses orders having a plurality of products and that any order can be made to be recurring. While Slotznick does disclose that an order can have multiple products, Slotznick does not disclose different recurrence schedules, such as a different shipping schedule, for each of those multiple products. One of  
30 ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the system of Slotznick is event driven and that

one or more products may be grouped together for delivery based on an event such as a holiday or birthday. Slotznick does not provide any mechanism of a profile which includes an order for multiple products where each of the products can have a different recurrence, e.g. shipment, schedule. In order to work with multiple events, a user would have to submit multiple orders for the different products associated with each event, as described above. Applicants' claimed method permits a user to enter a single order for multiple products where each may have a different recurrence schedule.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 42, 51, 92, 102, and 119-126 as amended, are not anticipated by Slotznick. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of independent claims 1, 42, 51, 92, 102, and 119-126.

#### **D. Dependent Claims**

Dependent Claims 2-20, 24-41, 43-50, 52-70, 74-91, 93-101, 103-114, and 116-118 were also rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Slotznick. With this response, dependent claims 10, 60, and 116-118 have been amended. These amendments add no new matter and are supported by the specification. Dependent claims 2-20, 24-41, 43-50, 52-70, 74-91, 93-101, 103-114, and 116-118 should be allowed for the reasons set out above for the independent claims. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of these claims.

For example, the Examiner points to Col. 5, lines 6-15 of Slotznick as disclosing multi-level marketing. The cited disclosure, however, does not disclose multi-level marketing, but instead discloses the marketing of packages of products such as travel services. Multi-level marketing, as known to one of ordinary skill in the art, refers to marketing system in which a salesperson earns a commission on their own sales and on the sales of any other salespeople they recruit. Slotznick fails to disclose such a marketing system.

The Examiner also points to Col. 16, lines 10-15 as disclosing that the plurality of products are associated with a respective plurality of electronic commerce system products or services web files. The cited disclosure, however, discloses only that the Internet may be used to transmit data from the remote device to the central server. Slotznick does not

mention the World Wide Web or the use of Web sites and one of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the Internet is first and foremost a data communications network. For example, long before the World Wide Web was invention, the Internet was used to communicate via electronic mail or file transfer protocol ("FTP"). Therefore, mere  
5 disclosure of the Internet does not also imply disclosure of the use of the World Wide Web or Web files, etc.

Further, the Examiner points to Col. 4, lines 35-55, and Col. 9, line 47 to Col. 10, line 17 as disclosing balancing the first suggested quantities with the suggested recurrences of the order. Applicants note that balancing, as claimed, is defined in Applicants' Specification at  
10 page 41, line 4 to page 42, line 18, as equalizing the quantities and/or costs, or other factor, of each iteration of a recurring order as a function of the life of the order where the cost or quantity, or other factor, would otherwise vary as a function of the iteration. Slotznick fails to disclose balancing as described.

Accordingly, the additional limitations of these dependent claims also distinguish  
15 over the cited reference. For example, Slotznick fails to disclose: wherein said plurality of products or services are associated with a multi-level marketing system, as claimed in claim 3; wherein a user is registered with said multi-level marketing system as a client, member or independent business owner ("IBO") and wherein said receiving further comprises receiving said first request from said user, as claimed in claim 4; wherein said plurality of products or  
20 services is associated with a respective plurality of electronic commerce system products or services web files, as claimed in claim 5; wherein said plurality of electronic commerce system products or services web files are operatively coupled with a web site associated with said network, said network comprising an electronic commerce system, as claimed in claim 6; receiving a second request for a second suggested order, as claimed in claim 10; wherein  
25 said modifications are received after said generating as claimed in claim 14; balancing said first suggested quantity and said first suggested recurrence to substantially equalize a distribution of subsequent recurrences of said first suggested order, as claimed in claim 18; wherein said balancing substantially equalizes a distribution of cost per recurrence of said first suggested order, as claimed in claim 19; wherein said balancing substantially equalizes a  
30 distribution of incentive compensation per recurrence of said first suggested order, as

claimed in claim 20; providing one or more interactive messages relating to one or more of said plurality of products or services, wherein said first request further comprises one or more responses to said one or more interactive messages, as claimed in claim 24; wherein a subset of said one or more interactive messages further relates to demographic information, as claimed in claim 25; wherein a subset of said one or more interactive messages further relates to subjective preference information, as claimed in claim 26; wherein a subset of said one or more interactive messages further relates to a specific product or service selected from said plurality of first electronic commerce system products or services, as claimed in claim 27; wherein a subset of said one or more interactive messages further relates to use of a product or service, as claimed in claim 28; accessing a product or service database to select said first one or more suggested products or services which correlate to said one or more responses, as claimed in claim 29; providing one or more pre-defined groupings of one or more products or services selected from a plurality of products or services offered by one or more vendors, wherein said first request further comprises a selection indication of one or more of said one or more pre-defined groupings, as claimed in claim 30; wherein said plurality of products or services are associated with a multi-level marketing system, as claimed in claim 53; wherein a user is registered with said multi-level marketing system as a client, member or independent business owner ("IBO") and wherein said receiving further comprises receiving said first request from said user, as claimed in claim 54; wherein said plurality of products or services is associated with a respective plurality of electronic commerce system products or services web files, as claimed in claim 55; wherein said plurality of electronic commerce system products or services web files are operatively coupled with a web site associated with said network, said network comprising an electronic commerce system, as claimed in claim 56; said order receiver is further operative to receive a second request for a second suggested order, as claimed in claim 60; wherein said second suggested recurrence is different from said first suggested recurrence, as claimed in claim 61; wherein said first profile and said second profile are the same profile, as claimed in claim 62; wherein said modifications are received after said first profile is generated, as claimed in claim 64; an order balancing processor coupled with said profile generator and operative to balance said first suggested quantity and said first suggested recurrence to substantially

equalize a distribution of subsequent recurrences of said first suggested order, as claimed in claim 68; wherein said order balancing processor is further operative to substantially equalize a distribution cost per recurrence of said first suggested order, as claimed in claim 69; wherein said order balancing processor is further operative to substantially equalize a  
5 distribution of incentive compensation per recurrence of said first suggested order, as claimed in claim 70; wherein said order receiver is further operative to provide one or more interactive messages relating to one or more of said plurality of products or services, wherein said first request further comprises one or more responses to said one or more interactive messages, as claimed in claim 74; wherein a subset of said one or more interactive messages  
10 further relates to demographic information, as claimed in claim 75; wherein a subset of said one or more interactive messages further relates to subjective preference information, as claimed in claim 76; wherein a subset of said one or more interactive messages further relates to a specific product or service selected from said plurality of first electronic commerce system products or services, as claimed in claim 77; wherein a subset of said one  
15 or more interactive messages further relates to use of a product or service, as claimed in claim 78; wherein said profile generator is further operative to access a product or service database to select said first one or more suggested products or services which correlate to said one or more responses, as claimed in claim 79; wherein said order receiver is further operative to provide one or more pre-defined groupings of one or more products or services  
20 selected from said plurality of products or services, wherein said first request further comprises a selection indication of one or more of said one or more pre-defined groupings, as claimed in claim 80; wherein said at least one product or service is associated with a respective electronic commerce system product or service web file, as claimed in claim 104; wherein said electronic commerce system product or service web file is operatively coupled  
25 with said network, said network comprising an electronic commerce system, as claimed in claim 105; wherein said generating further comprises spreading said standing order over a duration of said suggested recurrence, as claimed in claim 112; providing one or more interactive messages relating to said at least one product or service, as claimed in claim 116; providing one or more pre-defined groupings of said at least one product or service, as

claimed in claim 117; and reviewing historical orders for said at least one product or service, wherein said at least one suggested order is based on said review, as claimed in claim 118.

## II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Dependent claims 21-23, 71-73 and 115 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slotznick in view of Hirohisa. With this response, claim 115 has been amended. This amendment adds no new matter and is supported by the specification.

- 5 These dependent claims should be allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend, as discussed above. Applicants further submit that dependent claims 21-23, 71-73 and 115, as amended, are not obvious in view of Slotznick and Hirohisa.

Dependent claim 21, incorporates the limitations of independent claim 1 and further adds "wherein said first request further comprises usage information about how said first one  
10 or more suggested products or services are to be used...." In addition, dependent claim 21 adds "determining a predicted lifespan corresponding to said first one or more suggested products or services;" and "calculating said first suggested quantity and said first suggested recurrence based on said usage information and said predicted lifespan."

Dependent claim 71, as amended, incorporates the limitations of independent claim  
15 51 and further adds "wherein said first request further comprises usage information about how said first one or more suggested products or services are to be used, said profile generator further operative to determine a predicted lifespan corresponding to said first one or more suggested products or services and calculate said first suggested quantity and said first suggested recurrence based on said usage information and said predicted lifespan."

20 Dependent claim 115, as amended, incorporates the limitations of independent claim 102 and further adds "wherein (a) occurs in response to receipt of usage information about how said at least two products or services is to be used, said suggested recurrence being a function of said usage information and a predicted lifespan of said at least two products or services."

25 Slotznick is discussed above.

Hirohisa discloses a system for forecasting demand of a repetitively ordered specification-invariant product. See Hirohisa, translation, ¶ 1. The disclosed system automatically generates a repeat order record based on forecasts of future demand volume. The forecasts of future demand volume are created by delineating the use conditions from the  
30 historical progression of delivery volume. See Hirohisa, translation, ¶ 8.



Both Slotznick and Hirohisa fail to disclose a system that stores a single profile of multiple products to be ordered on a recurring basis wherein each of the products is capable of being reordered according to different recurring basis as claimed in Applicants' claims. Slotznick is discussed above. Hirohisa fails to fill the gap. Hirohisa instead discloses a system that sets an order reception period for an article which is repeatedly ordered according to the movement demand of that article. *See* Hirohisa, Purpose. The system calculates the movement demand for a particular item, and generates an order for the item accordingly. *See* Hirohisa, ¶ 21. Hirohisa does not base the order reception period based on consumption of the product, but based on a delineation of use conditions from the progression of the delivery volume. *See* Hirohisa, ¶ 8. The system of Hirohisa looks at historical order patterns for the purpose of forecasting future orders. Hirohisa does not disclose utilizing usage or consumption information in concert with a product lifespan in order to determine a recurrence pattern.

As neither Slotznick nor Hirohisa discloses to disclose a system that stores a single profile of multiple products to be ordered on a recurring basis wherein each of the products is capable of being reordered according to different recurring basis as claimed, the combination also fails to result in these limitations. For at least these reasons, claims 21-23, 71-73 and 115 are not obvious in view of Slotznick and Hirohisa. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of dependent Claims 21-23, 71-73 and 115.

Dependent Claims 22, 23, 72 and 73 were also rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slotznick in view of Hirohisa. Dependent claims 22, 23, 72 and 73 should be allowed for the reasons set out above for the claims from which they depend. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of these claims.

**CONCLUSION**

Each of the rejections in the Final Office Action dated August 12, 2003 has been addressed and no new matter has been added. Applicant submits that all of the pending  
5 claims are in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if it would expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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